

NOTES ICHTYOLOGIQUES

FIRST RECORD OF SOME PISHES FROM KHOR AL-ZUBAIR, KHOR ABDULLAH, AND SHATT AL-ARAB, BASRAH, IRAQ.
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Abstract.— *Mobula diabolus* (Shaw, 1804), *Bregmaceros maclellandi* Thompson, 1840, *Hippocampus kuda* Bleeker, 1852 and *Acanthobrama marmid* Heckel, 1843 were collected from Khor Abdullah, Khor Al-Zubair (north west of the Arabian Gulf), and Shatt Al-Arab river, Basrah, Iraq. These fishes represent a new record for the area from which they were collected. A short description of each species is given.

Résumé.— *Mobula diabolus* (Shaw, 1804), *Bregmaceros maclellandi* Thompson, 1840, *Hippocampus kuda* Bleeker, 1852, et *Acanthobrama marmid* Heckel, 1843 ont été récoltés dans Khor Abdallah, Khor Al-Zubair (au nord-ouest du golfe Persique), et dans la rivière Shatt Al-Arab à Basrah, Iraq. Ces espèces sont ici signalées pour la première fois dans cette région. Une courte description est donnée pour chaque espèce.

Keywords : ISW Iraq, Mobulidae, Bregmacerotidae, Syngnathidae, Cyprinidae, *Mobula diabolus*, *Bregmaceros maclellandi*, *Hippocampus kuda*, *Acanthobrama marmid*, new record.

Khor Al-Zubair and Khor Abdullah are a northward extension of the Arabian Gulf. This region of the Gulf is considered part of Iraqi territorial area.

During 1972, one fish specimen of *Hippocampus kuda* Bleeker was captured from Khor Abdullah, north west of the Arabian Gulf, by trawl net. In 1983, three fish specimens were captured by a trap net in Khor Al-Zubair area and Shatt Al-Arab river. The specimens appeared to be *Mobula diabolus* (Shaw), *Bregmaceros*

maclellandi Thompson, and *Acanthobrama marmid* (Forsskal).

Mobula diabolus (Shaw) was originally described as *Raja diabolus* from Vizagapatan by Shaw in 1804 ; Day in 1878 described it as *Diacerobatus eregoodoo* from the Indian seas. Subsequently, it was reported as *Mobula diabolus* from India (Misra, 1959) and from Sri Lanka (Munro, 1955). In the Arabian Peninsula area, this species was reported from the Red Sea by Fowler (1956) and by White and Barwani (1971) from the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. However, this is the first time a specimen has been recorded from Khor Al-Zubair, north west of the Arabian Gulf, and a short description will be given below.

Thompson (1840) described *Bregmaceros maclellandi* from the Gangetic Delta and the species has subsequently been recorded from several parts of the world : from India by Day (1889), from the Red Sea by Fowler (1956) and from Karachi and Bombay by Kotthaus (1969). There has not been a previous record of this species from Arabian Gulf, despite the check list of species by Al-Daham (1982). Hence, it is recorded for the first time from Khor Al-Zubair, north west of the Arabian Gulf and a short description will be given of the specimen.

Hippocampus kuda was described originally from Singapore by Bleeker in 1852. In 1880 Day recorded this species from India as *H. guttulatus* Cuv. During this century the species has been recorded from different part of the world : from South and East Africa (Smith, 1949), Ceylon (Mendis, 1954; Munro, 1955) and the Red Sea (Fowler, 1955). More recently, it has been recorded from the Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman by Kuronuma & Abe (1972) and White & Barwani (1971), respectively. This record is the first from Khor Abdullah, north-west of the Arabian Gulf and the description given below is based on the single specimen.

Heckel (1843) described *Acanthobrama* from Aleppo for the first time. Subsequently, it has been recorded from the Tigris river, Iraq (Mahdi, 1962). Al-Nasiri & Hoda (1975) recorded fishes belonging to the genus *Acanthobrama* from Shatt Al-Arab river, but they did not identify which species. *Acanthobrama marmid* Heckel, 1843 is now recorded for the first time from Shatt Al-Arab river near Ashar, Basrah. A short description of the specimen is given below.

Family : Mobulidae
***Mobula diabolus* (Shaw, 1804)**

One specimen from Khor Al-Zubair, north-west of the Arabian Gulf, Iraq, 50 cm (TL), March 1983.

Head length 7.0 cm, head width 3.0, disc length 30, disc width 60 cm. Body flat with two cephalic horns. Mouth inferior, well behind head; in each jaw 30-80 oblique rows of about 10 teeth, according to age. Spiracles lateral, small in deep groove, about the size of pupil. Five pairs of large, ventral gill openings. Dorsal fin small, at the base of tail. Tail whip-like, shorter than length, spineless. Rayed portion of pectoral fins not united with cephalic fins at sides of head. Pelvics small, between pectorals. A single, rayed dorsal fin originating in advance of pelvic fin; posterior end of base of dorsal fin lies at a distance nearly equal to the length of its base in front of posterior pelvics. No anal fin.

Skin smooth. Grey to reddish brown above, whitish below.

Distribution : India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Red Sea, South Africa, Gulf of Oman, Indonesia, Philippines, Queensland.

Family : Bregmacerotidae
***Bregmaceros maccllellandii* Thompson, 1840**

One specimen from Khor Al-Zubair, north-west of the Arabian Gulf, Iraq, 88.70 mm (TL), May 1983.

D. 55; A. 60, P. 17; L.I. 75; Ltr. 13. Total length, 88.70 mm; SL, 78.90. In percentage of standard length : head length 14.9; preorbital length 3.6; interorbital length 6.6; predorsal length (DI) 1.25; preanal length 37.5; prepectoral length 18.4; preventral length 11.4; pec-

toral fin length 9.9; ventral fin length 69.0; caudal fin length 10.0.

Fusiform, compressed posteriorly. Minute movable teeth round margin of mouth and on vomer, none on palatine. Occipital dorsal ray very backward in groove formed by basal scales; median dorsal and anal rays very short and feeble; three simple outer ventral rays dilated, compressed, and reaching middle of anal base. **Colour :** Rich brown, lighter on abdomen; dorsal, pectoral, anal and caudal fins black; ventrals, dirty white. The younger the specimen the less dark it is, in the very young there is no black on the fins.

Distribution : Bombay, Karachi, Burma, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, the Andamans and China to New Zealand.

Family : Syngnathidae
***Hippocampus kuda* Bleeker, 1852**

One specimen from Khor Abdullah, north-west of the Arabian Gulf, Iraq, 20 cm (TL), June 1972.

D. 16. A. 4, P. 17. Total length 20 cm; SL 10 cm; head length 2; predorsal length 7; pre-ventral length 8; preanal length 9.

Head bending from body axis in nearly a right angle. Base of dorsal fin raised on dorsal contour, extending over both trunk segments (2) and tail rings (2). Tubercles on trunk segments and tail rings fully angled. Cornet on the head low. Head and body (trunk and tail) light or greyish brown, becoming paler posteriorly. Belly light grey. Dark brownish spots as large as pupil scattered over body, more on trunk than on head or tail.

Distribution : Natal, Sumatra, Formosa, Philippines, Polynesia, Red Sea, India and Arabian Gulf; often collected at a depth of 40 metres.

Family : Cyprinidae
***Acanthobrama marmid* Heckel, 1843**

One specimen from Shatt Al-Arab river near Ashar at Basrah, Iraq, 20 cm (TL) June 1983.

D. 11, A. 19, L. I. 66. Snout obtuse, bent downwards to the mouth which is slightly oblique and extending backward to below the nostril. Height of body is nearly one-third of the total length without caudal. Dorsal spine

rather feeble and smooth. Lateral line slightly bent ventrally. Six longitudinal series of scales between the lateral line and ventral fin.

Colour : silvery-white.

Distribution : Tigris river, Iraq and Aleppo, Syria.

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FIRST RECORD OF *LYCODYNTIS ELEGANS* (PISCES; MURAENIDAE) FROM THE RED SEA.

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Abstract.— A moray eel, *Lycodontis elegans* Bliss, 1883) has been collected for the first time from the Gulf of Aqaba, North-East of the Red Sea. The morphometric measurements and colour pattern is described.

Résumé.— Une murène, *Lycodontis elegans* (Bliss, 1883), a été récoltée pour la première fois dans le golfe d'Aqaba, au nord-est de la Mer Rouge. L'auteur en décrit la morphologie et la coloration.

Keywords : Red Sea, Aqaba Gulf, Muraenidae, *Lycodontis elegans*, new records, Moray eel.

Two specimens of *Lycodontis elegans* (Bliss, 1883), 440 and 510 mm in total length, were caught in August 1985 by hooks and line at a depth of 180 m from the Jordanian portion of the Gulf of Aqaba. The specimens are preserved in the Museum of the Marine Science Station, Aqaba (catalogue No. MSS-A150, A151. Coll. A. Ajiad & El-Absy).

Lycodontis elegans has not hitherto been reported from the Red Sea. The description of the presently collected specimens agrees very well with that given by Smith (1962) of his specimens collected from Inhaca Island of the Western Indian Ocean who depended on the original description given by Bliss (1883).

Lycodontis McClelland, 1844

Type species *Lycodontis literata* McClelland, 1844, *Calcutta. J. nat. Hist.*, 186, pl. 7, fig. 2, by subsequent designation of Jordan, 1919.